



Communication on Engagement 2020 - 2021

www.BackpackBed.org

September 2021



reddot design award
best of the best 2011



WINNER - POWERHOUSE MUSEUM DESIGN AWARD 2011



Statement of continued support

His Excellency António Guterres
Secretary General of the United Nations
The United Nations Global Compact
New York, NY - USA

15 September 2021

Dear Secretary General,

Backpack Bed for Homeless supports the Ten Principles of the United Nations Global Compact in the areas of Human Rights, Labour, Environment and Anti-Corruption.

Our organisation is delighted to renew our commitment to the principles. In this our third annual Communication on Engagement, we describe our actions to integrate the Global Compact and its principles into our culture and daily operations.

Yours sincerely,



Tony Clark
CEO & Founder
Backpack Bed for Homeless



Lisa Clark & Tony Clark with the *Backpack Bed*
United Nations, New York

Actions in support of the Principles

1.0 Human Rights

1.1 Homelessness is a Human Rights issue

Backpack Bed for Homeless works to improve the Human Rights of people who are homeless and do not have shelter.

This includes being actively involved with lobbying to groups such as the Australian Government, politicians, government departments, corporates and other community groups on the lack of basic human rights for these people. Numerous corporates internationally support our work.

If our society cannot adequately house homeless - then a minimum level of dignified emergency bedding should be provided.

Providing inadequate bedding impacts on the human rights of street sleeping homeless:

- The right to health and wellbeing
- The right to personal safety
- The right to privacy
- The right to non-discrimination
- The right to freedom from cruel inhuman or degrading treatment

Our organisation was awarded an Australian Human Rights Award by the Australian Human Rights Commission in 2011 for our work.

“All Human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights.”

-Universal Declaration of Human Rights



1.2 Backpack Bed

The *Backpack Bed* is a dignified emergency bed provided for free to street sleeping homeless people without shelter as well as being an engagement tool to connect them with local homeless services.

Backpack Bed features

- Meets 47 international standards for quality and safety (independent lab testing)
- Awarded 7 international product design awards
- Fabric is waterproof, windproof, mildew resistant
PLUS Fire retardant (meets 2 international standards)
- Mosquito mesh ventilation (head + chest + feet)
- Built-in **190cm** insulated comfort mattress (ALSO fire retardant and anti-mildew)
- Tape sealed main seams
- Full body zipped sleeping area
- Backpack with padded adjustable straps
- 3 x built-in storage pockets
- Lockable internal pocket (with supplied key lock)
- 2 x carabiner clips (clip on extra bags / belongings)
- Ultra lightweight street tough materials - weighs ONLY 3kg / 6.6lb



1.2 Fire Retardant Sleeping Bag / Hypothermia Pack

Due to seeing first hand the undignified and unsuitable bedding provided to people without shelter, Backpack Bed for Homeless has also developed a Fire Retardant Sleeping Bag.

2.0 Labour

Our organisation is committed to the Labour principals. This includes using factories with accreditation for worker conditions such as BCSI.

3.0 Environment

Our organisation is committed to the Environment principals. This includes the materials selection for the *Backpack Bed*.

We independently lab test to meet several international chemical safety standards.

4.0 Anti-Corruption

Our organisation is committed to the Anti-Corruption principals. This means doing business responsibly and ethically.



Measurement of Outcomes

5.0 Our Current Reach

The *Backpack Bed* is distributed to street sleeping homeless people without shelter across 8 countries.

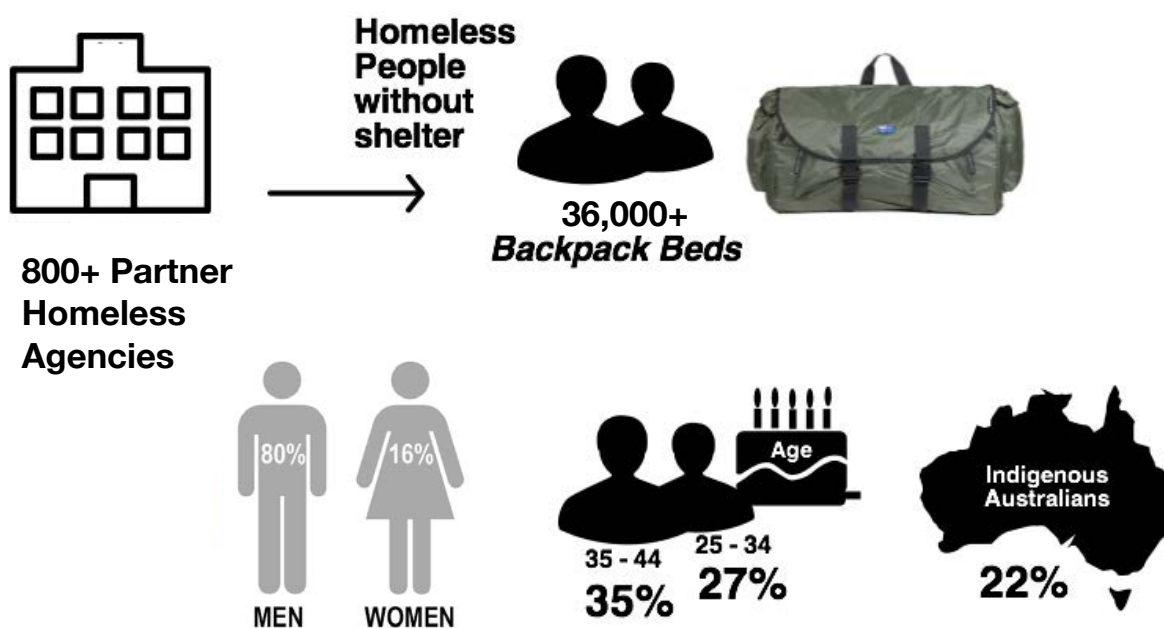
5.1 Australia

Backpack Bed for Homeless has been a nationally registered Australian charity since 2007.



The Problem

- 49,200 men, women and children will sleep outside this year. ¹
- 41% of Australians requesting short-term or emergency accommodation were not provided any in 2017- 2018 (44,116 people).²
- 21% in Sydney + 19% of Melbourne street sleeping homeless suffered from avoidable cold weather injuries - **hypothermia, frostbite** or **trench foot**.³
- 20% of NSW + 12% of VIC prisoners were sleeping on the streets before going to prison - some homeless commit **desperation crime to get shelter**.⁴

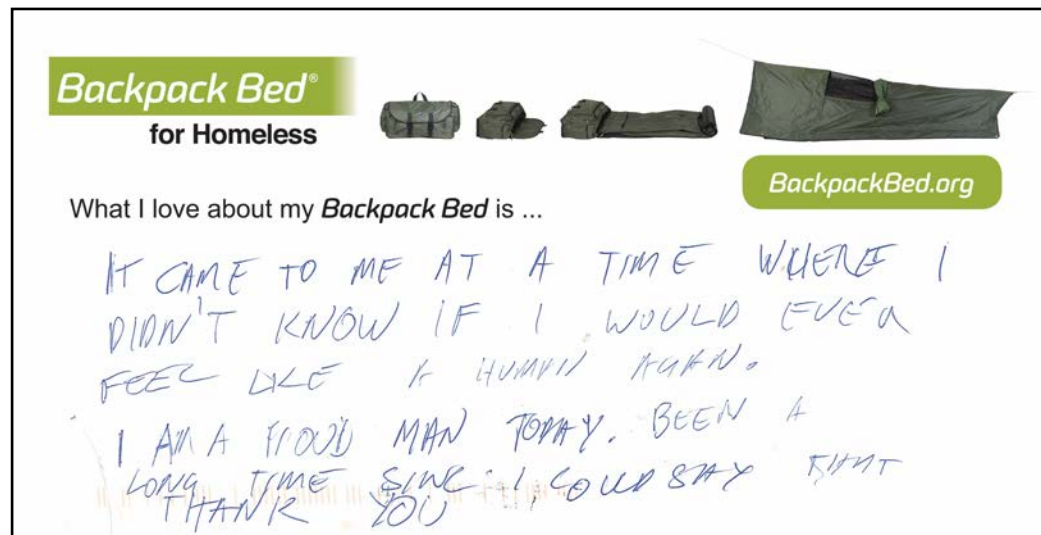


¹ Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2011

² AIHW, 2017 - 2018 Unmet need for accommodation & housing assistance, 2019

³ Melbourne Street 2 Home, 2010 & 2011

⁴ Australian Housing & Urban Research Institute, 2003



Our Current Reach

- *Backpack Beds* are study proven to improve homeless peoples dignity, health, sleep, comfort, self-esteem and safety.
- The Social Return on Investment (SROI) of our program has been measured as \$3,319 / *Backpack Bed* in the areas of health, mental health & justice.⁵
- Over 36,000 *Backpack Beds* and 7,500 *Fire Retardant Sleeping Bags* have been distributed - which equates to over \$120m SROI and over 4m nights of dignified sleep for homeless without shelter.⁶

5.2 USA

Backpack Bed for Homeless was registered as a US charity 2014 with 501(c)3 status achieved in 2017.



The Problem

- TONIGHT 194,467 Americans will sleep on the streets, under bridges and "other places not intended for human habitation". 35% of the total homeless population of 552,830 people.⁷

Our Current Reach

- 36 partner homeless agencies and growing.
- Over 1,400 *Backpack Beds* distributed.

5.3 Internationally

Our Current Reach

Backpack Beds have also been distributed to homeless people without shelter in the **United Kingdom, New Zealand, South Africa, Germany, Canada and Spain.**



⁵ 180 Degrees Consulting, 2018

⁶ 3.5m nights sleep. Calculation based on ABS 2014, General Social Survey

⁷ The state of homelessness in America, 2018

This was in partnership with local homeless agencies in those countries for distribution and funding. Where funding permits we will continue this important work.

6.0 Awards and Recognition

6.1 Human Rights

Our organisation was awarded an Australian Human Rights Award by the Australian Human Rights Commission in 2011 for our work.

Tony & Lisa Clark (co-designers of the *Backpack Bed*) were also nominated for both the 2015 and 2016 Australian of the Year awards as well as awarded a Professor Ian Frazer Humanitarian Award by Lions medical research.

6.2 Backpack Bed

The *Backpack Bed* has been awarded 7 international product design awards:

- 2011 Red Dot - Best of the Best, Germany
- 2011 Australian International Design Award - GOLD
- 2011 Powerhouse Museum Design Award, Australia
- 2012 Finalist International Design Excellence Awards - Social Impact Design, USA
- 2012 – Winner - Melbourne Design Awards - Sport & Leisure, Australia
- 2013 Edison Award - SILVER - Social Impact, USA
- 2013 The Australian Innovation Challenge - Winner Community Services, Australia
- 2014 A'Design Award - SILVER - Social Design, Italy
- 2014 Finalist International Design Excellence Awards - Social Impact, USA



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